

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 11, 2008
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on June 11, 2008 at 9:30AM at the Metropolitan Transportation Building, 1 Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA.

Members Present: Quentin Kopp, Chairman
Fran Florez
David Crane
Rod Diridon, Sr.
Curt Pringle
Lynn Schenk
Kirk Lindsey
Thomas Umberg

Members Absent: Kirk Lindsey
TJ Stapleton

Opening Comments

Chairman Kopp welcomed Board Members to today's meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for the following Authority Meetings:

Chairman Kopp presented the minutes from the May 14th meeting for approval. Member Florez moved to approve, Member Diridon seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Chairman Kopp presented the list of meetings for compensation for approval. Member Florez moved to approve the list of meetings for compensation seconded by Member Umberg. The motion carried 5-0.

Member Reports

Chairman Kopp reported the Assembly Transportation Committee approved AB 3034 in May with a 10-0 vote, the Assembly Appropriations Committee approved it on a 13-0 vote and the Assembly approved AB 3034 on 60-3 vote. Chairman Kopp expressed gratitude to the principal author and the co-author of the bill, Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani and Assemblywoman Fiona Ma. Chairman Kopp reported AB 3034 is now assigned to the Senate Transportation Committee and has been subject to amendments which were made available to the Board by Executive Director Morshed.

Chairman Kopp also reported public hearings by the Senate Transportation Committee in December 2007 and January 2008 which resulted in a "Committee

Report". Chairman Kopp stated this report was written before the amendments had been added to AB 3034 and that many of the comments were reflected in the amendments. The report also included a recommendation to integrate the Authority into State Government in order to enhance its accountability. Also it suggests the Authority be placed under "oversight capability within the Business Transportation and Housing agency" and to assign the Authority to the California Transportation Commission for review and approval of the business plan and program of investment proposed by the Authority. Chairman Kopp reported he stated to the Chairman of the committee that he found this insulting to the members of the Board because of the collective experience the Board has with HSR. Chairman Kopp suggested to the Board if they shared his view they should express it to the Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Chairman Kopp reported he would be testifying at the Senate Transportation hearing on June 17th, and invited all the Board members to join him. Chairman Kopp reported AB 3034 must reach the Secretary of State by June 26, 2008.

Chairman Kopp recognized the attendance of Tom LaBonge, City Council member from the City of Los Angeles.

**Tom LaBonge, City of Los Angeles
City Council Member**

Mr. LaBonge welcomed the Board on behalf of Mayor Villaraigosa and the Los Angeles City Council. Mr. LaBonge stated HSR was good for California and that California would not grow in the future unless it had transit like the HSR. Mr. LaBonge stated that the Mayor and Los Angeles City Council support the project and they look forward to the effort in the fall.

Chairman Kopp recognized the attendance of Mike Cano representing Supervisor Mike Antonovich from the County of Los Angeles, Jill Sourial representing City Council Member Edward Reyes from the City of Los Angeles, Leo Bastilnakoff representing Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa from the City of Los Angeles, Antone Blakely representing Assembly Member Mike Davis who co-authored AB 3034, and Ray Harris representing Supervisor Don Knabe.

Member Diridon reported attending many meetings regarding HSR, one being with the India Rail Congress in New Delhi which he presented a key note address focusing on the California program. Member Diridon stated many potential financing organizations for the project were in attendance at this meeting because the India Rail is being renovated with Public Private Partnerships and he believed some submitted letters of interest for California's project.

Member Diridon moved to modify the Authority policy to allow Chairman Kopp to remain Chair for an additional year. Member Schenk seconded, the motion was adopted with a vote of 7-0.

Presentation of Spanish High-Speed Trains

Antonio Perez, the president and CEO of TALGO and members of RENFE, ISOLUX CORSAN and IMATHIA explained the National Spanish Railway's experience and lessons learned on the start-up, implementation and development of a high speed railway network.

Member Diridon asked if the Spanish HSR system had lines where the passenger trains and the freight trains run on adjacent tracks in close proximity to each other or where the passenger and freight tracks cross each other. The response was that the Spanish HSR system did have passenger tracks that run adjacent to freight tracks and also cross over one another. Member Diridon asked if any danger or accidents had occurred with the HSR in Spain since it was constructed. Mr. Perez responded no to both.

Chairman Kopp thanked Mr. Perez and the rest of the Spanish delegation for their presentation and interest in California's HSR.

The entire Spanish Railway presentation is available upon request.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Morshed reported both the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees have approved the sum of \$46.5M for the operation of HSR over the next fiscal year, with some limitation of what is available between July and November with the remaining to become available through the Bond Act.

Executive Director stated the primary reason for AB 3034 is because in January the Governor's budget indicated he supported HSR but had concerns that the current bond proposal did not have sufficient safeguards to protect the public's interest and to ensure that the commitments made can be delivered as promised. Executive Director Morshed stated the Authority staff has been working with staff from the Governor's office along with the Department of Finance to ensure all of the conditions and restrictions the Governor wanted are included in AB 3034.

Executive Director Morshed reported the Final Program EIR/EIS was distributed on May 21, 2008, was put on the Federal Register on May 30, 2008 and was made available to the public for review and comment for 30 days. Staff will then review the comments and hold a public comment hearing on July 8, 2008. At the conclusion of the public comment hearing, staff and attorneys will regroup and draft modifications to made to the EIR/EIS. Then on July 9, staff will bring

the Final EIR/EIS along with the modifications made the day prior for Board certification. Executive Director Morshed stated the certification would complete the Bay Area to Central Valley Program Level EIR/EIS process.

Executive Director Morshed reported a meeting with the attorneys with Grasslands Water District and stated they were satisfied with the modifications made regarding the preservation of the grasslands.

Executive Director Morshed reported meetings with the Sierra Club which was concerned with the preservation of farmlands. Executive Director Morshed stated the modification made to preserve farmland has earned the support of the Sierra Club.

Executive Director Morshed stated he distributed a letter written by Authority attorney George Spanos to the Board and staff regarding certain restrictions of their activity until the bond measure in November.

Chairman Kopp urged the Board to read the document carefully.

Executive Director Morshed suggested the August Board meeting be cancelled.

Chairman Kopp stated the August meeting is cancelled but is open to rescheduling.

Executive Director Morshed stated the letter a letter from Union Pacific had been distributed to the Board regarding their concern of the safety of HSR and their intent to not share their right-of-way. Executive Director Morshed stated there has not be one fatality reported in any of HSR systems around the world (France, Japan, Spain) since the beginning of operation over 40 years ago. Executive Director Morshed also stated the HSR trains lines would be built adjacent to existing lines so as not to disturb residents in the surrounding communities.

Chairman Kopp stated the contents of the letter from Union Pacific were in no way new information.

Fresno Council of Governments Co-Operative Agreement

Executive Director Morshed requested authorization to enter into a Co-Operative Agreement with Fresno COG in regards to the inter-relation of the high-speed train alignment and the Fresno freight rail consolidation plans through Fresno. Member Diridon moved to authorize the agreement, Member Pringle seconded. The motion was adopted with a vote of 7-0.

Financial Plan Briefing

Carrie Farley with IMG provided a briefing on the responses received to the Request for Expressions of Interest.

The financing plan presentation is available upon request.

Los Angeles-Palmdale Corridor Report

Dan Tempelis with the Hatch Mott MacDonald/URS/Arup Team presented a briefing on the planning, engineering, environmental and outreach work to date for the Los Angeles to Palmdale corridor.

Mr. Tempelis' presentation is available upon request.

Public Comment

An opportunity for public comment was provided during each public agenda item.

An opportunity for public comment was provided after all agenda items were heard.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25pm